

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a recording liquid for ink printers that comprises a colorant, water, a fine particle of non-photo-curable resin, and a fine particle of photo-curable resin, wherein the recording liquid has the capability of producing high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer. Support for this amendment may be found on pages 5-6 of the specification.

While this amendment is being added after final rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter and consider the amendment. The subject matter amended into claim 1, while not previously recited in the claim, was previously set forth and argued as a distinguishing feature of Applicant's invention in Applicant's remarks in the response dated October 3, 2001. By adding the amended subject matter to claim 1, Applicant believes the claimed invention is now more clearly distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicant believes that this amendment places the application in clear condition for allowance, or, alternatively, in better form for appeal. In view of these comments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter and consider this amendment and response.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,234,601 ("Hayashi"). According to the Examiner, claim 1 is rejected because Hayashi discloses (a) a colorant; (b) water; (c) a fine particle of non-photo-curable resin; and (d) a fine particle of photo-curable resin. The Examiner has rejected claim 2 because, in the Examiner's opinion, Hayashi also discloses a method for recording images on a recording medium by discharging the droplets of the recording liquid from a recording head.

Additionally, the Examiner states that Applicant's specification discloses that the non-photo-curable resin may include acrylic resins and methacrylic resins, and that the photo-curable resins may include urethane acrylate-based resins and epoxy acrylate-based resins. The Examiner uses this disclosure to conclude that Hayashi anticipates Applicant's claimed invention. According to the Examiner, Hayashi discloses acrylic resins and methacrylic resins that function as Applicant's non-photo-curable resins and epoxy resins and urethane resins that function as Applicant's photo-curable resins.

Applicant understands the Examiner's observation that some of the resins disclosed in Hayashi overlap with those that Applicant discloses as the non-photo-curable resins and photo-curable resins. However, the Examiner is incorrect in stating that these resins, as disclosed in Hayashi, function in the same manner as the resins function in Applicant's invention. The resins disclosed in Hayashi are used for a completely different purpose than Applicant's claimed resins.

Hayashi relates to a method of producing images on two types of recording medium, wherein different colorants of the composition are dispersed depending on whether the recording medium is glossy or plain. Hayashi approaches the problem of preventing clogging by using glycerin (col. 4, lines 18-27), 2-pyrrolidone (col. 4, lines 28-35), polyhydric alcohol or a saccharide (col. 4, lines 36-67), or triethanolamine (col. 5, lines 36-43). Hayashi incorporates resins only as a continuous phase of water and dispersed phase of resin to improve fixation and scratch resistance of the resultant print. See col. 5, lines 61-63.

The resins disclosed in Applicant's invention, on the other hand, function as components of a recording liquid for ink printers that impart into the recording liquid the ability to produce high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer. See pages 5-6 of the specification. To further distinguish Applicant's claimed invention from that disclosed in Hayashi, Applicant has amended claim 1. Claim 1 now recites a recording liquid for ink printers that comprises a colorant, water, a fine particle of non-photo-curable resin, and a fine particle of photo-curable resin, wherein the recording liquid has the capability of producing high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer. As amended, the claim is distinguishable from Hayashi because it recites that the composition as claimed prevents clogging. This is different from Hayashi.

While Hayashi discloses similar resins, Hayashi does not teach a recording liquid that contains a non-photo-curable resin and a photo-curable resin wherein the recording liquid has the capability of producing high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer. Instead, the resins taught in Hayashi function as components of a water-soluble emulsion that is used to improve the fixation and scratch resistance of the resultant print. See Hayashi, col. 5, lines 59-67.

Hayashi does not teach a recording liquid that contains a non-photo-curable resin and a photo-curable resin wherein the recording liquid has the capability of producing high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer. Hayashi makes no

teaching that resins used in the Hayashi ink liquid function in a manner that allows for the printing of high-density images while preventing clogging. In fact, Hayashi uses completely different compounds when tackling the issue of clogging. Because Hayashi does not teach every limitation of Applicant's claimed invention, Hayashi does not anticipate claims 1 and 2 of Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102(e) rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the above remarks that place the application in clear condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal. The subject application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (amended) A recording liquid for ink printers, comprising:

a colorant;

water;

a fine particle of non-photo-curable resin; and

a fine particle of photo-curable resin,

wherein said recording liquid has the capability of producing high-density images without clogging the discharging nozzles or apertures of the ink printer.



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